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CONDITION OF COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING INDUSTRY  
IN NORTHEAST, NORTH, AND EAST CHINA

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Tokyo, 15 Aug 1953

[Comment: This report is divided into two sections. Section A gives information of restoration of old cotton spinning and weaving factories in the Northeast, in North China, and in East China since the Communist take over. Section B gives information on construction of new spinning and weaving factories in various parts of China during 1952-53.]

A. Restoration of Old Factories

1. Northeast China

Cotton spinning and weaving industry in the Northeast suffered heavy damages during the liberation war, but repairs to the damaged factories were completed soon after the liberation. In 1947, when Northeast China was still under the Nationalist control, there were 223,000 spindles and 5,530 looms in the whole area, of which 100,000 spindles and 3,000 looms were in operation. In December 1948, all cotton spinning and weaving factories in the Northeast were placed under the Textile Industry Control Bureau, Ministry of Industry, Northeast Administrative Committee, and by June 1949, there were a total of 120,000 spindles and 1,400 looms in operation. By the end of 1949, the number of spindles in operation increased to 200,000, and by the end of 1950, the number of spindles and looms in operation increased to 320,000 and 6,500, respectively. In 1952, the number of looms in operation totaled about 9,000, or an increase of 39 percent over the total number of looms in operation in the Northeast in 1950.

A total of 120,000 bales of cotton yarn and 2,450,000 bolts of cotton fabric were produced in the Northeast in 1949, and about 240,000 bales of cotton yarn and 6 million bolts of cotton fabric were produced in 1950. Production of cotton yarn in the Northeast in 1951 exceeded the 1950 production by 14.7 percent, and in 1952, exceeded the 1951 production by 24 percent.

2. North China

In Tientsin, five out of seven factories which formerly belonged to the China Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company (Chung-kuo Fang-chih Chien-she Kung-ssu) were put into operation by the Central People's Government immediately following the liberation of that city. These five factories had a total of 220,000 spindles. The sixth factory was put into operation shortly afterward, leaving only the No 7 Factory, the largest and the most heavily damaged factory, not in operation. During 1949, four privately owned factories, the Hua-hsin, Heng-yuan, Pei-yuan, and Ta-cheng, were put into operation, making a total of ten factories in operation with 390,000 spindles and 8,160 looms.

The average monthly production of the Tientsin factories of the China Spinning and Weaving Company in 1948 was 14,125 bales of cotton yarn and 371,245 bolts of cotton fabric. In September 1949, shortly after the liberation, the average monthly production of these factories increased to 18,177 bales of cotton yarn and 423,824 bolts of cotton fabric. The average monthly production of the privately owned factories also increased sharply in 1949, especially that of the Ta-sheng Factory, which, during September 1949, produced 285 bales of cotton yarn, well over the highest mark attained by this factory during the Nationalist regime.

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Before the liberation, Tientsin had about 20 small printing and finishing factories; however, due to business decline, one fourth of the total was not in operation and one third of the remaining factories were operating at half their capacity. Business picked up suddenly after the liberation and, by October 1949, there were 48 of this type of factory in operation in Tientsin, employing 2,200 workers and producing 364,000 bolts of printed or finished fabrics each month.

Spinning and weaving factories in Shih-chia-chuang also received severe damages during the liberation war. After the liberation, the number of spinning and weaving factories increased to 143, as compared to only 20 factories in Shih-chia-chuang before liberation.

### 3. East China

In East China, eight spinning and weaving factories which formerly belonged to the China Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company were placed under state operation immediately following the liberation. These factories had a total of 324,500 spindles and 7,260 looms, and, in August 1949, they had a total of 303,000 spindles in operation.

In Shanghai, 35 factories which formerly belonged to the China Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company were placed under state operation. These factories had a total of 910,000 spindles and 17,500 looms. There also were 59 privately owned factories in Shanghai having a total of 1,420,000 spindles in 1949. At the end of 1949, 813,400 spindles in state operated factories and 1,175,100 spindles in privately owned factories were in operation.

The bombing of the Shanghai Electric Power Company by the Nationalist Air Force in February 1950 cut off the supply of electricity temporarily, and the number of spindles in operation in privately owned factories decreased from 1,175,000 to 120,000, but in March 1950, supply of electricity was restored and the number of spindles in operation at the state operated and privately owned factories increased to 1,500,000.

The average monthly production of the state operated factories in Shanghai in 1949 was 34,000 bales of cotton yarn and 74,000 bolts of cotton fabric, and of the privately operated factories was 37,000 bales of cotton yarn and 26,000 bolts of cotton fabric. The 1951 production of cotton yarn and cotton fabric in Shanghai as a whole exceeded the 1950 production by 17.57 percent and 28 percent, respectively, and the 1952 production of cotton yarn and cotton fabric exceeded the 1950 production by 63.62 percent and 107.44 percent, respectively.

### B. Construction of New Factories

New cotton spinning and weaving factories in China are being built in the cotton producing areas, and not in the coastal cities as in the past. Six new factories were built in 1952, one each at Shih-chia-chuang, Han-tan, Cheng-chou, Hsien-yang, the Wuan area, and Urumchi. Of these six factories, four had begun operation in May 1952, and two around April 1953. Four more new factories are planned for construction during 1953.

At present, China has about 5,150,000 spindles in operation, but it is believed that the number of spindles will be increased from 5,150,000 at present to about 10 million by the end of the Five-Year Plan.

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